

**Ministry of
Indigenous Relations
and Reconciliation**

**2021/22 – 2023/24
SERVICE PLAN**

April 2021



For more information on the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation contact:

PO BOX 9100
STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC
V8W 9B1

Or visit our website at

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/irr>

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Minister's Accountability Statement



The *Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation 2021/22 – 2023/24 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Murray Rankin".

Honourable Murray Rankin
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
April 20, 2021

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Purpose of the Ministry

The [Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation](#) (the Ministry) guides and helps coordinate the Province of British Columbia's efforts to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with [Indigenous peoples](#)¹.

The [Truth and Reconciliation Commission \(TRC\) of Canada: Calls to Action](#) confirms the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UN Declaration) as the framework for reconciliation in Canada. British Columbia is the first province in Canada to recognize Indigenous peoples' human rights in law and to put the UN Declaration into action through the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act](#) (Declaration Act). This historic law requires that provincial laws be aligned with the UN Declaration, provides new direction around shared decision making, and allows flexibility for the Province to enter into agreements with a broad range of Indigenous governments. The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation leads these efforts in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, working closely with other organizations across government.

The Ministry achieves its [reconciliation commitments](#) in a transformative and collaborative manner. [Strengthening relationships with Indigenous communities](#) and leveraging Indigenous knowledge and perspectives improves social and economic outcomes for Indigenous peoples and all British Columbians.

The Ministry furthers [reconciliation with Indigenous peoples in B.C.](#) by collaboratively developing related policy and practices, and negotiating and implementing [agreements, partnerships, and treaties](#). The Ministry's focus is to build lasting relationships with Indigenous peoples, working toward flexible agreements that can evolve over time and developing collaborative approaches to policy making. This results in better engagement with Indigenous communities, treaty partners, municipal governments, and the federal government.

The Ministry engages with Indigenous governments, communities², and organizations, as well as federal, municipal and treaty partners, stakeholders, and the public. While reconciliation is a whole-of-government responsibility, the Ministry provides guidance and leadership to other areas of government on establishing and enhancing relationships with Indigenous peoples.

The Ministry is also responsible for the [Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women](#), which provides advice to government on how to improve the quality of life for Indigenous women in B.C., and the [First Peoples' Cultural Council](#) (FPCC), a provincial Crown corporation formed by the Government of British Columbia in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program.

¹ The term "Indigenous" used throughout this document is intended to be inclusive of all peoples of Indigenous ancestry, including First Nations (status and non-status), Métis and Inuit.

² The term "communities" means the diversity of Indigenous communities as defined by Indigenous peoples and includes descriptions such as urban, rural, metropolitan, land-based and reserve.

Strategic Direction

In 2021/22 British Columbians continue to face significant challenges as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Government of British Columbia is continually evolving to meet the changing needs of people in this province. Government has identified five foundational principles that will inform each ministry's work and contribute to COVID recovery: putting people first, lasting and meaningful reconciliation, equity and anti-racism, a better future through fighting climate change and meeting our greenhouse gas reduction commitments, and a strong, sustainable economy that works for everyone.

This 2021/22 service plan outlines how the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation will support the government's priorities including the foundational principles listed above and selected action items identified in the November 2020 [Minister's Mandate Letter](#).

Performance Planning

Goal 1: Advance equitable social and economic outcomes of Indigenous peoples

The Ministry is committed to advance social and economic outcomes in Indigenous communities in comprehensive and holistic ways that are determined by and organized around each community’s priorities. These efforts include sharing the benefits of economic development within the province with Indigenous communities and increasing opportunities for the participation of Indigenous peoples in the economy.

Objective 1.1: Partner on shared initiatives that improve the quality of life of Indigenous peoples

The Ministry works with Indigenous, provincial and federal agencies and partners to advance opportunities that improve the health and wellness of Indigenous communities through community-focused initiatives addressing social, cultural and economic factors.

Key Strategies

- Partner with the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations to promote Indigenous-led economic development opportunities.
- Advance solutions to issues that impact the quality of life of Indigenous women in British Columbia through the Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women.
- Work with the First Peoples’ Cultural Council to support preservation and revitalization of Indigenous cultures and languages.
- Expand supports for urban Indigenous peoples through Aboriginal Friendship Centres in the province.
- Provide support and leadership to government agencies that engage with Indigenous communities working to ensure equitable delivery of emergency management initiatives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Performance Measure	2019/20 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.1 Cumulative number of community ¹ well-being initiatives.	16	20	22	24	28

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

¹The term *community* is inclusive of all First Nations, Métis and urban Indigenous communities

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Community well-being initiatives are reconciliation processes where Indigenous communities and the B.C. government work in partnership to identify and then action socio-cultural priorities. These partnerships invest in areas such as economic development, cultural revitalization, human resource capacity building, education, justice, health and family services, and institutional and infrastructure development.

Objective 1.2: Support Indigenous communities in advancing self-determination and governance building

The Ministry works with Indigenous peoples to advance self-determination and governance building, supporting opportunities for economic, social and cultural initiatives aligned with community priorities and transitioning delivery of public services to Indigenous governments.

Key Strategies

- Partner with First Nations on opportunities for revenue sharing.
- Support capacity development in Indigenous governments and organizations, including Indigenous public services.
- Make space for an increased role of Indigenous communities and organizations in delivering services to Indigenous peoples.
- Collaborate with, align and leverage associated opportunities with the federal government.
- Work with partner ministries to advance CleanBC objectives, including supporting collaboration efforts with Indigenous communities and businesses to identify and implement new clean economy opportunities and to help Indigenous communities adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Performance Measure	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
1.2 Number of new opportunities ¹ for First Nations to participate in revenue sharing.	9	4	4	4

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

¹This includes new revenue-sharing opportunities negotiated into particular agreements.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

Sharing revenue with First Nations communities is an important reconciliation tool that supports implementation of the UN Declaration and the self-determined pursuit of economic, social, and community development. Like all governments, First Nations require sources of revenue to support capacity and service delivery. Ensuring First Nations share in the wealth generated by economic opportunities helps support economic growth and positive outcomes in First Nations communities and for all British Columbians.

Goal 2: Work in partnership to achieve true and lasting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples

True and lasting reconciliation is a cross-government priority and requires collaboration with ministry partners and transparent engagement with all British Columbians.

Objective 2.1: Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action, and the Tsilhqot’in Supreme Court decision.

All ministries carry responsibility for implementation of provincial reconciliation commitments. Supporting this, the Ministry works to develop cross-government tools and approaches that achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration and implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

Key Strategies

- Support government ministries and agencies to integrate reconciliation into their policy and operations, including cross-government implementation of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* and the [Draft Principles that Guide the Province of British Columbia’s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples](#).
- Work in partnership with Indigenous peoples, in line with government agencies, to jointly develop and implement an Action Plan under the Declaration Act that identifies outcomes to advance reconciliation.
- Advance reconciliation between the Province and Métis people in B.C. through the implementation of shared priorities.
- Work with ministry partners to support efforts to engage with Indigenous peoples that advance reconciliation initiatives within their respective ministry mandates, including alignment of provincial policy and legislation with the Declaration Act.
- Engage with partners and key stakeholders to ensure transparency on government’s approach to reconciliation.

Performance Measure	2021/22 Target
2.1 Delivery of the Action Plan and reporting obligations related to the Declaration Act. ¹	1

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

¹The Ministry had originally intended to complete planning commitments in the previous fiscal year, as reported in the 2020/21 Service Plan. However, while reporting obligations were met, the ongoing pandemic delayed completion of planning commitments and the Ministry intends to complete these in the current fiscal year.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

The development of an action plan in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, along with regular reporting, will provide a transparent and accountable path forward on reconciliation in the province. Through the development of this action plan, clear objectives and associated outcomes will be jointly identified to indicate progress made towards reconciliation.

Objective 2.2: Negotiate and implement treaties and other constructive agreements with Indigenous peoples

The Ministry works with Indigenous peoples and other ministry partners to establish treaties and other constructive agreements that affirm self-determination and support new approaches to the development of a framework for cooperation and co-existence of Indigenous jurisdiction.

Key Strategies

- In partnership with Indigenous peoples, co-develop new approaches to negotiations to move from short-term, transactional arrangements to long-term agreements that recognize and support reconciliation, self-determination, and economic independence.
- Develop a whole-of-government approach to recognize and enter into decision-making agreements with Indigenous governing bodies as outlined in the Declaration Act.
- Engage with partner agencies and the Alliance of BC Modern Treaty Nations to identify shared implementation priorities and develop new approaches that improve treaty relations in British Columbia.
- Develop a cross-sector approach to strengthen and promote collaborative negotiation and agreement processes that advance reconciliation objectives in partnership with Indigenous peoples.

Performance Measure	2018/19 Baseline	2020/21 Forecast	2021/22 Target	2022/23 Target	2023/24 Target
2.2 Number of agreements demonstrating transformed approach to treaty-making and other constructive arrangements.	5	9	11	13	TBD ¹

Data source: Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

¹The Ministry will be reviewing this performance measure and associated targets for future reporting periods to seek out opportunities for alignment with current mandate letter commitments. Accordingly, targets for future reporting periods will be determined once reporting methodology is updated for the service planning cycle in 2022/23.

Linking Performance Measure to Objective

A transformed approach to treaty-making includes incremental agreements that support the negotiated reconciliation of Indigenous rights and title interests, whether inside or outside the formal BC Treaty Commission process. These agreements include final agreement, agreement-in-principle, incremental treaty agreement, core treaty agreement, Stage 5 agreement or other constructive arrangements that seek to reconcile Indigenous rights and title interests.

Financial Summary

Core Business Area	2020/21 Restated Estimates ¹	2021/22 Estimates	2022/23 Plan	2023/24 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Negotiations and Regional Operations Division	13,254	15,341	15,341	15,341
Strategic Partnerships and Initiatives Division	22,830	18,834	18,834	18,834
Reconciliation Transformation and Strategies Division	1,974	3,260	3,260	3,260
Executive and Support Services	9,066	13,305	13,349	13,365
Treaty and Other Agreements Funding	39,442	117,063	133,212	121,443
First Citizens Fund	1,905	1,642	1,624	1,583
First Nations Clean Energy Business Fund special account	8,201	9,268	8,840	8,142
Total	96,672	178,713	194,460	181,968
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services	1	1	1	1
Total	1	1	1	1
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
British Columbia First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership Receipts	(0,000)	(58,059)	(90,909)	(105,630)
British Columbia First Nations Gaming Revenue Sharing Limited Partnership Disbursements	0,000	58,059	90,909	105,630
Land Transfers Disbursements	15,000	32,570	7,606	2,000
Total Receipts	(0,000)	(58,059)	(90,909)	(105,630)
Total Disbursements	15,000	90,629	98,515	107,630
Total Net Cash Requirements (Source)	15,000	32,570	7,606	2,000

¹ For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2020/21 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2021/22 Estimates.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Appendix A: Agencies, Boards, Commissions and Tribunals

As of April 20, 2021, the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation is responsible and accountable for the following:

[BC Treaty Commission](#)³

The BC Treaty Commission is an independent body responsible for facilitating treaty negotiations among First Nations and the governments of Canada and British Columbia.

[First Peoples' Cultural Council](#)

The First Peoples' Cultural Council is a First Nation-run Crown corporation that supports the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, culture and heritage in British Columbia.

[Haida Gwaii Management Council](#)⁴

The Haida Gwaii Management Council is a strategic-level joint decision-making body for land and natural resource decisions on Haida Gwaii, as set out in the [Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol](#).

[Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women](#)

The Minister's Advisory Council on Indigenous Women provides advice to the Government of British Columbia on how to improve the quality of life of Indigenous women across B.C.

³ With reference to the BC Treaty Commission, responsibility and accountability is limited and defined through [the Treaty Commission Act](#).

⁴ With reference to the Haida Gwaii Management Council, responsibility and accountability is limited and defined through the [Kunst'aa guu – Kunst'aayah Reconciliation Protocol](#).